

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 6, and add new claim 8 as follows:

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1. (Original) A magnetic recording medium comprising:
an in-plane magnetic film used for recording, the in-plane magnetic film having a magnetization easy axis in an in-plane direction; and
a perpendicular magnetic film formed on said in-plane magnetic film, the perpendicular magnetic film having a magnetization easy axis oriented in a direction perpendicular to said magnetization easy axis of said in-plane magnetic film,
wherein a tBr of said perpendicular magnetic film is set so as not to exceed one-fifth of a tBr of said in-plane magnetic film at the maximum, where the tBr is the product of a thickness and a residual magnetization.
 2. (Original) The magnetic recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein said perpendicular magnetic film has a thickness not exceeding 5 nm at the maximum.
 3. (Original) The magnetic recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein an anisotropic magnetic field H_k of said perpendicular magnetic film is set at least 1.2 times as large as an anisotropic magnetic field H_k of said in-plane magnetic film.
 4. (Original) The magnetic recording medium as claimed in claim 1, further

comprising a nonmagnetic spacer provided between said in-plane magnetic film and said perpendicular magnetic film.

5. (Original) The magnetic recording medium as claimed in claim 4, wherein said nonmagnetic spacer has a thickness not exceeding 2 nm.

6. (Currently amended) The magnetic recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein said perpendicular magnetic film is formed of ~~one of a Co-group alloy and a Co-group artificial lattice film~~ a Co-group alloy or a Co-group artificial lattice film.

7. (Original) A magnetic recording and reproducing device including:
a magnetic recording medium comprising:
an in-plane magnetic film used for recording, the in-plane magnetic film having a magnetization easy axis in an in-plane direction; and
a perpendicular magnetic film formed on said in-plane magnetic film, the perpendicular magnetic film having a magnetization easy axis oriented in a direction perpendicular to said magnetization easy axis of said in-plane magnetic film,
wherein a tBr of said perpendicular magnetic film is set so as not to exceed one-fifth of a tBr of said in-plane magnetic film at the maximum, where the tBr is the product of a thickness and a residual magnetization.

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8. (New Claim) A magnetic recording medium comprising:

an in-plane magnetic film used for recording, the in-plane magnetic film having a magnetization easy axis in an in-plane direction;

a perpendicular magnetic film formed on said in-plane magnetic film, the perpendicular magnetic film having a magnetization easy axis oriented in a direction perpendicular to said magnetization easy axis of said in-plane magnetic film; and

a nonmagnetic spacer provided between said in-plane magnetic film and said perpendicular magnetic film,

wherein a tBr of said perpendicular magnetic film is set so as not to exceed one-fifth of a tBr of said in-plane magnetic film at the maximum, where the tBr is the product of a thickness and a residual magnetization, and

wherein said perpendicular magnetic film has a thickness not exceeding 5 nm at the maximum.